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# THE DIXIE RANGER

U. S. FOREST SERVICE, SOUTHERN REGION, ATLANTA, GEORGIA.  
JOSEPH C. KIRCHER, REGIONAL FORESTER

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## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

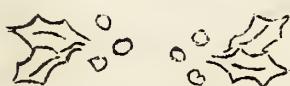
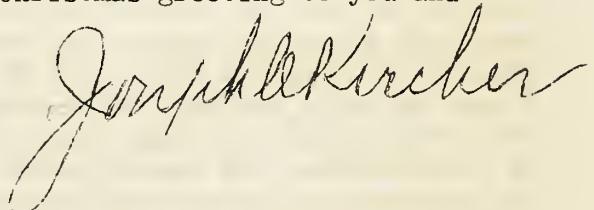
The second Christmas season for Region Eight is rolling around.

This anniversary will be a happy one for me. Since its origin, I have repeatedly expressed the hope that the Region be a close-knit unit in which we might all work harmoniously on a job big enough to give the most ambitious of us satisfaction at having had a part in it.

The past year has seen this hope launched so well that its realization is beyond the stage of doubt. We began as a large, widely scattered organization. Every week since there have been new faces. In the Regional Office alone there are twice as many folks as when I sent you a Christmas greeting last year.

During 1935 we had a difficult job. New work to learn. New personalities to which to become adjusted. A far-flung organization to develop into a smoothly running machine. On the personal side, many of us had to make new homes and new friends. Your hard work and loyalty have pulled us through this trying stage in a manner of which I am proud. When I go into a strange town or city where many of you have been in residence only a few months and see you greeted on all sides in a comradely fashion, I know you are doing a good job and that our work is safe in your trust.

I like to feel that our association in this broadened forestry venture in the South marks a fuller and happier experience for all of us. In this spirit I want to send a warm Christmas greeting to you and each member of your family.



## De La Howe Experimental Forest

A new development of general interest to Region 8 is the recent establishment of a permanent experimental forest on the forest lands of the De La Howe School for indigent children near McCormick, South Carolina, in the Long Cane Unit of the Sumter National Forest. This is in the shortleaf-loblolly pine-hardwood type in the lower Piedmont near the Savannah River.

During a recent visit to the school, Superintendent E.F. Gettys outlined the plan which has been developed for placing the school lands under intensive forest management.

A contract has been made with the Appalachian Forest Experiment Station at Asheville, North Carolina, by which the Station agrees to make a timber survey and to prepare a management plan and type map and supervise cutting and reforestation operations. In return for this the school agrees to keep the land permanently in forest and to follow the station's recommendations for cutting, planting, stand improvement and other phases of forest management. Field survey work was completed early in October, and a working plan is now in preparation.

The school owns about 1800 acres of land. Of this about 1000 acres is now in second-growth pine and hardwood timber, some of it more than 150 years old. The balance has been in cultivation for many years and has deteriorated from soil erosion and one-crop farming until most of it is no longer suitable for profitable farm crops. 200 acres of the best farm land will be kept in cultivation. The remaining 600 acres will be reforested with pine and hardwood trees, using the school's own student labor for nursery and planting operations.

The second growth timberlands have been protected from fire for many years and contain unusually well stocked stands of merchantable second-growth pine and hardwoods. These will be selectively cut during the next few years, marketing the ripe trees through small mill operations in such a way as to improve the stand for increased future production.

Under this type of management, the school hopes to develop its forests to a point where they will yield a substantial net income each year. The School Forest will also serve a valuable purpose as a demonstration forest in showing private owners throughout the Piedmont Plateau how to secure maximum returns from forest lands.

The De La Howe School is one of the oldest institutions of its kind in the country. It was established over 150 years ago under the will of Dr. De La Howe, a French Huguenot physician who willed his entire estate, including the 1800 acres of land, for the founding and support of this school. In 1920 the school was taken over by the State and has since been expanded until it now has about 230 boy and girl students and a staff of 25 teachers and attendants. The School cares for and educates orphans and other children who do not have suitable homes. It acts as a perpetual guardian for all wards and secures positions for its graduates. The students are given vocational instruction in farming, domestic service, handicraft and other manual arts. It is planned to use the School Forest for instruction in practical forestry.

D. R. BREWSTER,  
Timber Management Division

## A NEW INDUSTRY FOR CHOCTAWHATCHEE ?

During the past summer an inquiry was received from the Bureau of Plant Industry pertaining to a plant common to this section of the country: Cracca latidens, commonly known as the Devils Shoe String.

Several years ago it was discovered that if the roots of this plant are pulled or dug up, dried, pulverized and made into either a powder or solution that it is highly toxic to insects but not to animals or human beings.

Soon after this discovery an attempt was made to commercialize the raising of Cracca for the above purpose. At this time it was discovered that the roots of this plant are not uniformly toxic. In the same location the entire root system of some plants will be toxic, while others are not; in some cases, only part of the same root or root system of a particular plant will be toxic and so on.

Discovery of this led to search for a plant which would be uniformly toxic, and to the cultivation of other plants to determine, if possible, the cause of the toxicity. This they have been unable to definitely discover.

Last year, while on a search for this plant, members of the Bureau of Plant Industry happened to pass along the Southern Boundary of the Choctawhatchee; here they found Devils Shoe String in abundance. All tests responded toxic. Believing that their advance information warranted further investigation, Mr. A.F. Sivers, Senior Biochemist of the Bureau of Plant Industry, in charge of this particular research problem, visited the Choctawhatchee. Accompanied by the

Ranger, samples of Cracca were systematically collected from all portions of the forest. All responded toxic. During these travels a definite northern range within the confines of the forest boundary was observed.

This legume grows everywhere in abundance throughout the forest, except in the low, wet flat-woods, and we are told that this is the largest uniform area thus far discovered from which samples have been collected that were 100% toxic. The cause of this is unknown as yet, presumably it is something either present or lacking in the soil. Members of the Bureau of Plant Industry plan to establish during the coming winter permanent plots for the purpose of cultivation of this plant. They also plan to carry it elsewhere, and to bring other species here to see if they will acquire this toxic characteristic.

The plant is very easily propagated, being most easily spread by harrowing or plowing. All that is needed to transplant it is the root collar and a small portion of the crown. Observation in an area plowed and harrowed last October, 1934, in planting pine, and along fire lines and roads, leads one to believe that its spread in this manner is rapid and satisfactory.

Apparently the roots of this plant, which are many, long and fibrous, could be harvested about every other year. No figures are available as to how many thousand pounds, dry weight, could be harvested each year over the 360,000 acres of the Choctawhatchee, but here's hoping that it would mean years of labor for many.

The harvest of this plant, in addition to furnishing an insecticide that could be used not only by the public, but also in our own forest-tree nurseries for combating plagues of ants, and possibly white grubs, would also mean that each year large areas of the forest would be systematically hoed, plowed, or turned over, thus exposing mineral soil upon which might fall many a pine seed to germinate and grow. In addition to this, a heavy accumulation of rough would be averted and a consequent lessening of fire hazard.

Fire would be detrimental to this, as it destroys the crown so essential to propagation, and makes the plant difficult to find.

Scrub Oak apparently has no retarding effect on this plant. The only apparent limiting factor is as mentioned, that it will not grow in the flat-woods.

This plant is also a valuable soil binder, and we are told that it is being seriously considered by soil erosion experts, due to first -- its ease of establishment, second -- its long and many fibrous roots. Experiments in its use on certain fills along forest roads is being commenced this fall.

Should further investigations prove the feasibility of collecting this plant, it may mean the beginning of a new industry for the Choctawhatchee, supporting indefinitely, we hope, a considerable number of people.

When one looks about the forest and the surrounding country he is impressed with the fact that Public Work projects are nearly finished. One man recently made the remark: "You have done everything possible, what can you next provide for these people?" Perhaps the foregoing represents a timely and prodigal discovery, who knows?

H. A. SNYDER,  
Choctawhatchee

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#### PUERTO RICO

Events are fast moving in the island of Puerto Rico. Forest Supervisor Hadley has had his attention claimed by PRRA, Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration, having as its objective the rehabilitation of the population of the Island. This program is actively directed by the Chief of the Bureau of Territories and Possessions, Dr. Ernest H. Gruening. Mr. Hadley, as the director of the forestry project of the PRRA, is focusing his time and energy on the forest problems of the Island.

W.P. Nichols, who had been temporarily assigned to Puerto Rico for the purpose of lining up office activities and the training of personnel, is on his way back to the United States after a four-month sojourn. Nick enjoyed his trip to the tropics, but is glad to get back to the States and cold weather.

Executive Assistant Brown,

recently transferred from the Kisatchie, arrived in Puerto Rico on October 17th and his first impressions may be reported as not favorable. Mrs. Brown is joining her husband in tackling the Spanish language and hopes to master it at an early date.

Puerto Rico is interesting from the CCC standpoint, since it is practically the only place in the United States where the Forest Service handles the care, feeding and hospitalization of the CCC enrollees. These activities are economically and efficiently directed and their handling has elicited considerable favorable comment locally.

PRRA officials have already shown their intense interest in the forestry development of the Island and recently signified to Hadley their intention to devote funds in such quantity as will assure the proper solution of watershed and timber-production problems.

W.P. KRAMER,  
Assistant Regional Forester.

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#### ATLANTA DOGWOOD PROJECT

The Southern Region is aiding the Atlanta City Planning Commission in its program to make Georgia's capital the "Dogwood City" with a spring flower festival rivaling Pasadena's rose show and Washington's cherry blossoms.

Ten thousand young dogwoods, from two to three feet high, have been collected on the Nantahala National Forest under the direction of Supervisor Bryan and Ranger Nicholson, transported to Atlanta by Army convoys returning to Fort McPherson after delivering supplies to CCC camps in

North Georgia, and are now being planted along the main highway routes leading into the city.

The first tree was planted on November 20 by Mayor Key on the Roosevelt Highway at Rose Circle. Mr. Kircher was in Washington and Associate Regional Forester Stabler represented him at the ceremony in which George I. Simons, city park manager, Mrs. J.H. Phagan, Atlanta garden clubs, and R.W. Torras, city engineer participated.

If this Fall's planting project is successful, the Service will probably continue to cooperate with the Atlanta city authorities in their long-range five-year program for planting 50,000 flowering dogwoods in the parks and along the principal streets and avenues of Atlanta.

The 10,000 plants gathered this fall were collected near Camp SC F-1 and heeled in there to await Army convoys. Careful handling was given the plants. They were burlaped as soon as they were uprooted, and each ball of earth soaked in water before loading on the trucks, which carried 250 trees apiece.

The public announcement of this project received much favorable press comment.

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## GAME COMES HIGH ON THE CHEROKEE

The period from October 22 to October 31 was designated by the State as open hunting season in Polk County, Tennessee. To take care of the increased fire hazard as well as enforcement of fish and game laws, the Forest area lying in Polk County was bottled up by placing guards on all road entrances and having roving guards around the game refuge. All hunters were contacted and required to register.

Since it was expected that hunters would overflow into other parts of the Forest outside Polk County, the same system was used in adjacent Monroe County. The patrols contacted a large number of hunters in Monroe County, where the season does not open until December 1, and turned them back, resulting in confining the hunting, as far as National Forest lands were concerned, to Polk County.

In addition, Ranger Squires reports that on October 22 three men in a V-8 Ford passed through the register station on the Tellico River Road. CCC enrollee Roy Ferguson contacted them and they registered as going camping and not hunting. Early the next morning enrollee Charlie Dellinger, while on patrol, met the same parties on Whigg Ridge. They had in their possession two dead wild turkeys. They refused to give their names or any other information when questioned. The enrollee did not press the matter but took the automobile license number and description of their car and furnished this information to his

project superintendent, who, in turn, gave it to Ranger Squires. J. Natt Moore, District Game Protector, was immediately notified and took action. On November 1, the three men were brought to trial before Squire Gardner. Beecher Witt, State's Attorney, prosecuted the case. It developed that the men were employees of the Tennessee Electric Power Company and were defended by power company attorneys. The two CCC enrollees, mentioned above, easily identified the men, and J.R. Thomas, one of the accused, assumed responsibility and was fined \$50.45, including costs.

The hunting season in Polk County occurred during a period of excessive dryness, but since practically all hunters were registered and their location known, no undue fire trouble was apparent. In addition to holding down the outbreak of fires, it is believed that the patrol system did away with a large amount of illegal hunting. These patrols cooperated fully with approximately a dozen State game wardens on duty within the county,

The Federal Game Refuge No. 1 was completely patrolled along its boundaries by a force of 18 men, spread out over the entire distance and covering definitely assigned beats. It was felt necessary to safeguard these men from hunters and, therefore, they were equipped with cow bells, to make their presence known. There was some question as to the advisability of this since it would undoubtedly betray their presence to illegal hunters, but it was finally decided that

the welfare of the CCC enrollees outweighed this possibility.

This patrol eliminated the possibility of poaching on the game refuge. One hunter, when asked if deer were being seen, rather disgustedly remarked, "No, them damned boys with the cow bells on have done rounded them all up and drove them back in the game refuge and won't let them come out."

This system will be put into effect again on December 1, when hunting starts in Monroe County.

-- B. M. Prater,  
Acting Forest Supervisor.

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SOUTHERN HARDWOOD LUMBERMEN  
FORM NEW ASSOCIATION

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As a successor to the Hardwood Manufacturers Institute with headquarters at Memphis, Tennessee, which liquidated its affairs last August, hardwood lumber manufacturers in the South have formed a new organization called "Southern Hardwood Producers, Inc."

Headquarters were established in October at 600 Maritime Building, New Orleans, Louisiana, in charge of C.E. Miller, Acting Secretary and Statistician. Appointment of a permanent Secretary-Manager is now under consideration by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, and an announcement is expected shortly.

The new association has the active support of a majority of the

larger manufacturers of hardwood lumber throughout the Southern States. In addition to its statistical and marketing activities it will represent the industry in matters concerned with legislation and government relationships. A major objective will be the development of an increased demand for hardwood lumber through active trade promotion. This should be of direct benefit to the National Forests of the Region by increasing the market for hardwood stumppage.

During a call that I made recently to the association offices in New Orleans Acting Secretary Miller stated that the new organization will be glad to cooperate with the Forest Service in any possible way in furnishing information and in developing markets for National Forest Hardwood timber.

-- D. R. BREWSTER,  
Timber Management Division.

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CLAUDE M. BALLARD

With shocking suddenness, although nearly a week late, word was received at the Regional Office on November 25 that Claude M. Ballard had died. Genial, lovable, friendly Claude just ceased to live while on his way home from work. His passing leaves a gaping void in the circle of his acquaintances in and out of the Service,

Probably no one who has worked with the Forest Service family had a greater number of friends, real friends, than had Claude Ballard. Always the first to greet a new-comer with a hearty word of welcome, possessing a happy faculty of remembering names and faces, ever ready with a cheery greeting, Claude, as he preferred to be known, went on about his business just making this

world a delightful place in which to live. It is impossible to show by mere words the esteem and affection that was held for Claude by his friends in Region 8. We are all sad when we think of his having gone, but still I like to think of him with a smile to myself as I picture his smile when he entered the pearly gates and greeted Saint Peter with an outstretched hand and a genial - "Just call me Claude."

-- George W. Root  
Engineering Division.

(Mr. Ballard was chief of the Publications Section of Public Relations, Washington. He was one of the best-known and best-loved men in the Service.--Editor)

#### TRAINING FUTURE U.S. EXECUTIVES

Looking toward a day of need for more and more skilled Government administrators, the Rockefeller Foundation sets aside funds to be used as scholarships enabling promising college graduates to act as "internes" to prominent Government officials.

Under the plan, 30 persons will be chosen each year from college graduating classes for such training in public service. Behind the idea is the belief that immediate steps should be taken here to build up a personnel trained in Government work comparable to the class of civil servants in England and France.

-- United States News.

#### NORTH GEORGIA FOREST EXHIBIT AT SOUTH GEORGIA FAIR

An exhibit portraying recreational opportunities in the Georgia sections of the Nantahala and Cherokee National Forests was seen by approximately 40,000 persons who visited the five-day Slash Pine Forestry Fair that began at Waycross on November 11.

This exhibit was installed by F.W. Wiese of the Nantahala who remained at Waycross throughout the Fair. The Georgia Forestry Department had an exhibit in the next booth in charge of C.E. Boggs. Mr. Wiese and Mr. Boggs took turns making talks when the size of the crowds around their exhibits warranted it.

In a letter to Mr. Kircher thanking him for the Region's cooperation with Fair officials, J.S. Elkins, Secretary of the Slash Pine Forestry Association said:

"Mr. Wiese's exhibit attracted a great deal of attention, as much, no doubt, as anything in the hall, and added very materially to the completeness of the program. It was of special interest to younger people."

Mr. Kircher contributed an article to the Festival number of the Coastal Plains Journal distributed at the fair grounds.



Parkville Lake, one of the scenic treats of a trip to the Cherokee National Forest. This is the view from Bean Mountain.



Mayor James L. Key plants the first of the dogwoods collected on the Nantahala National Forest for the beautification of Atlanta streets and parks. Left to right: George I. Simons, city park manager, R. W. Torras, city engineer, Mayor Key, Associate Regional Forester Stabler, and Mrs. J. H. Phagan, chairman, garden division, Georgia Woman's Club.

Photograph by George Cormett, courtesy Atlanta Constitution.



FLORIDA RADIO SERIES

The Tallahassee Radio Station WTAL evidences a splendid public spirit in giving the Service a fifteen-minute radio program twice a week at six p.m. (EST) on Tuesday and Friday. WTAL is donating this time to the Forest Service in an effort to cooperate with President Roosevelt in carrying out his great national conservation policy.. This time will be donated for a series of eight speeches.

Copies of three of these addresses have been forwarded to the Regional Office by Supervisor Albert, who has handled the programs in an interesting and instructive way.

We thought his account of the first forestry project started on the American Continent was an interesting one. President John Quincy Adams is credited with this project in 1828, when he was faced with the depletion of the live oak timber used in the construction of wooden naval vessels. This Live Oak Reservation is at present maintained as a monument by the U.S. Naval Air Station of Pensacola, on Highway No. 115, about 20 miles east of Pensacola.

The game and recreational advantages of the National Forests was the subject of the third radio address and had the added interest of bringing in some one outside the Service. This address was handled as an interview in question and answer style by Dr. Raymond Bellamy of the Florida State College for Women and F.J. Ruff, Game Technician for the Florida National Forests, as follows:

Question: Mr. Ruff, didn't you promise to take me with you on one of your trips through some of the Florida National Forests?

Answer: Yes, we'll have to do that right away.

Question: Shall I take my gun along? Is the hunting any good there?

Answer: No, not so good as it should be, but it soon will be good, because the U.S. Forest Service has made rather definite plans for a program of Game Management on the Florida National Forests.

Question: But I thought the Forest Service was interested only in the production of timber.

Answer: The U.S. Forest Service has always recognized that land has a number of uses; but heretofore there had been no funds except for timber production. Now that other funds are available and more people make use of the National Forests, the Forest Service can actively manage resources other than timber. Maximum utilization of land has always been the chief aim; and, to attain this we are developing all resources to their greatest social benefit.

Question: Won't you be spending a lot of the Taxpayer's money to do all this, and what will they get out of it?

Answer: At present most large private holdings are not open to the public. The average citizen has little chance to go hunting unless he spends a good deal of money joining a shooting club or leasing shooting rights. The National Forests will, therefore, afford hunting to the ordinary citizen; such fellows as you and I. It will benefit the local communities by stimulating business. Outsiders coming into the region will naturally spend money, locally.

Then again, the Forest Service will get larger returns from special use permits, and, we hope, from small hunting fees. Such returns, together with returns from timber sales, go to make up the annual receipts. And 25 percent of these are paid to the local counties for their roads and schools.

The presence of wild game will also make the forests much more interesting than they are now. People will be more eager to visit them during their vacations or for picnic parties.

Question: How does the Forest Service plan to develop its National Forests for this new use?

Answer: A program of intensive research is now being conducted and is aimed at developing a sound policy of control. It is surprising how little is known of our wildlife and how much still must be learned. Each region has its own peculiar conditions; an area in the wastes of Southern Arizona, for instance, could not be handled the same as an area in the flatwoods of Florida. Of course, the first job is to protect the game and other wildlife so that it might regain its former numbers, and will be in no danger of extermination.

Question: I understood you to say that you were going to protect all wildlife. How about panthers and wild-cats?

Answer: You see, before man became a strong influence in a region, it contained a rather stable population of game. Each form of life had its definite place; and each was just as plentiful as it was supposed to be, without detriment to other forms. There was a definite balance between deer, which could be classed as the hunted, and wild-cats or panthers, the hunters. The hunters were always present and always occupied a definite niche in the general scheme of things. They acted as a control against too great an increase in numbers, and were a means whereby the weak were culled from the mass, leaving the fittest to survive and propagate the species - just the opposite of man's methods, where the best are culled in the hunt.

When the flesh-eaters are eliminated from the environment, the other species deteriorate, become too numerous, and die of starvation and disease. A good example of this is the deer herd of the Kaibab National Forest in Arizona. All panthers and other meat-eaters were exterminated and the deer became so numerous that they killed off all the trees and vegetation. They were in danger of complete extinction from starvation, and were infested with parasites and disease. The Forest Service was finally able to persuade the State of Arizona that most of the deer had to be killed immediately before they all died. Then, when the danger of extermination was controlled, panthers and wildcats were again introduced in the region to restore the natural balance.

Question: You say that these National Forests would support much more game than they do now. Why not raise stock and liberate it?

Answer: Foreign stock has a bad effect. The introduction of a species from another region has failed in nine cases out of ten. For instance, the common squirrel and the muskrat from this country were liberated in Europe. They have become so numerous away from their natural enemies that they have become an economic menace. No one can foretell definitely the influence of an outsider on the native life. It may have little or no effect but then again may overthrow the entire balance.

Question: You feel, then, that game introduced from other regions is usually detrimental to the native stock? Would pasturing cattle and hogs on this land have the same effect?

Answer: Grazing is poor on the wild lands of these National Forests. And as timber reclaims the denuded areas, it becomes even less desirable. This use has always been considered of very minor importance because, even with a fair amount of treatment, the forest lands of Florida cannot be made to produce the type of forage that cattle need; although they do produce food for deer, that eat leaves, sprouts and berries, but rarely eat grass.

Then again, domestic stock has a detrimental effect on wildlife. Such parasites as the screw-worm can be easily transmitted to game. Whereas you can control this pest on cattle, it would be next to impossible to fight it on game. Grazing will be discouraged because it does not serve the greatest economic good on those particular areas.

Question: Well, when you get all this game under organized control, how will that affect the hunting? For example, will you allow hunting with dogs?

Answer: We do not intend to prohibit hunting with dogs because they give many people their greatest thrill. Of course, the wholesale slaughter

that has been going on in the past with 15 dogs, an organized stand, and pump guns cannot be considered sport in even the most liberal sense of the word. Such action, we hope, can be controlled. I know several old experienced woodsmen who would not use dogs, but prefer to still-hunt, pitting their wits against the craft of the game. And they succeed in getting their limit each year. That's real sport!

Question: Do you intend to develop game on all your forests?

Answer: At present we intend to concentrate most of our efforts on the Ocala National Forest, because there we have greater control of the game. The Choctawhatchee is perhaps even better land for game management, but so far we have little control and do not expect to do more than carry on the initial research for future plans.

Question: About how much game do you think these forests will support?

Answer: Both the Ocala and the Choctawhatchee can support at least three times as much game. Although turkeys are practically extinct on these units, there are enough to restock the area if given sufficient encouragement. Mr. H.L. Stoddard, the Director of the Cooperative Quail Study Association, who is one of the foremost authorities on game management, says of the response of turkeys to management that "apparently they rank with deer, cottontail rabbits, mallard ducks, and ring-neck pheasants in this respect. We frequently find they respond more quickly than quail. From what I've seen of these birds in South Georgia, where food and cover conditions are similar to parts of our National Forests, I feel we could have areas as well stocked with game as with timber."

Question: What do you consider the greatest difficulty in carrying out your plans?

Answer: I would say that we needed more public interest and cooperation. In the past we have hesitated to develop our resources more intensively, because we could not be sure of adequate control. We felt that it would be useless to begin a project and then not be able to handle it properly toward a constant sustained return. If the people would but realize that these National Forests are their forests and that they are here for their benefit and enjoyment rather than for the few; that it is the taxpayers' money that is invested in these National holdings, and that the returns we make are for them and not for a few, nine tenths of our troubles would be over. In initiating a project of this kind, we, of course, step on the toes of a few game hogs who slaughter game in season and out. These people find that our plans hinder their style. They begin to feel that we are taking something from them. Perhaps we are, but we are giving it to you and to all taxpayers. No matter who might be in control of game, it should be managed impartially and efficiently for the greatest benefit of all alike. And for this we need active public interest.

## GRADE - A PUBLIC RELATIONS

Supervisor Nelson of the Ouachita recently sent in a display article from the Mena (Arkansas) Star that is a splendid example of the benefit of an interested press to forestry.

The ten-cent Lucky Strike box, a cigarette package sold widely in rural districts in the South, carries a fire caution about extinguishing burning matches and cigarettes. The Arkansas paper published a featured story based on this fact, stating that if a large corporation, only indirectly interested, felt so much concern about fires, it was even more important to residents of a section where a national forest existed and was of vital economic and inspirational importance.

The article can not be quoted because it, and the accompanying cigarette wrapper, were sent to Washington as a part of a press-relations exhibit.

## IMPROVED METHODS IN "BAILING OUT"

The latest device to be tried out by the Forest Service in its annual battle with the red enemy is a new type of parachute, with a quick releasing safety harness, for landing forest rangers near the fire line direct from an airplane.

A one and a half inch diameter tube has been added to the perimeter of the parachute which when inflated causes a quick opening upon release. To further minimize free falling distance, the fireman descends through

an aperture in the airplane floor down a light weight ladder until suspended in the parachute shroud lines. The pilot releases him at the right moment and his weight draws the parachute from the container in the ship's floor. Tests in the use of these parachutes are now being carried on at the Ogden airport.

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## SUGAR CAUSES BRILLIANT TREE COLORS OF AUTUMN

It's not an early frost, as commonly supposed, that produces the most colorful autumn leaves, says the United States Forest Service. It's a late frost -- and the sugar in the leaf -- that gives us the brilliant colors. Just the right combination of temperature and moisture is needed. The best colors come when the thermometer doesn't quite reach the freezing point for several weeks during the latter part of September and through October.

Silviculturists explain that before the leaves fall a layer of cells forms at the base of the leaf, which ultimately loosens the leaf, and, when it drops off, forms a scar. If frost doesn't arrive too soon, this layer forms early and quickly. It holds more sugar in the leaf and the sweet sap causes the brilliant reds and oranges and yellows that delight the eye. This is not only true of the gorgeous sugar maples in the north, but of most of the colorful hardwood trees -- the oaks, elms, birches, other maples, sweet gum, black gum, hickory, dogwood, and many others. When frost comes too early the leaves dry and lose their sugar before they have time to take on high color.

--Mississippi Forests & Parks.

## FOREST NEWS

PISGAH--- The Grandfather and Mt. Mitchell Districts have been brought closer together by the optioning of land in the Linville Extension. The fire protection boundaries meet at Linville River and new fire detection maps have been mounted which include this Extension and Table Rock Tower. Kilmichael Tower, formerly used only by sightseers, was recently converted into a lookout. A small room was built at the base of the tower for living quarters. A map board and telephone placed on the observation platform at the top, with two men from Camp F-4 on duty. With the use of this tower and cooperation from the Table Rock, it is felt that detection of fires in the area adjoining the two Districts is well in hand.

Lookouts atop the County Court House at Troy, N. C., have been doubled, and Camp F-17 NC has seven well-trained 15-man fire crews, with one Chevrolet  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ton truck fully equipped standing ready to move at a moment's notice. Fire meetings have been held at Camps F-5, F-6 and F-11 Tenn., under the direction of District Rangers, the meeting at F-11 being attended by Mr. Fischer, Assistant Forest Supervisor. Classes of instruction in various phases of fire suppression and pre-suppression are held regularly at the other camps.

As a result of the extended dry period, nineteen fires occurred on the Watauga District, burning a total of approximately 113.5 acres of Government land and 16.5 acres of private land inside the boundary. Four fires occurred at Camp F-4 NC, but very little

National Forest land was burned.

Resident Engineer J. D. Cockey, of the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads, spent several days with District Ranger Branch, in locating camp sites for the survey parties working on the Scenic Highway Project in the Mt. Mitchell District. The center line, cut and fill survey has been completed over a portion of the Mitchell Unit.

T.S.I. work at Camp F-5 Tenn., on the Hannum and Watson tract of land, recently purchased near Flat Top Mountain is completed. The new road beginning at the intersection of Rock Creek Road and Red Fork Road at Indian Grave Gap, to Poplar, N. C., is getting along nicely. This road will shorten the distance eighteen or twenty miles from Poplar to Johnson City, Tenn.

The Acquisition-Examination and Survey crews have been progressing steadily on the Mt. Mitchell and Watauga Districts. Five timber sales were made on the Watauga during the month, having a total value of \$685 for stumpage.

Educational classes at the camps are again showing improvement. An arboretum has been started at Camp F-22 NC as part of the educational work.

On October 14 a group of about forty representatives of various travel agencies through the north and northeast visited the Pisgah Forest. The first day of a twelve day trip this party went through Lenoir and Blowing Rock to Grandfather Mountain, which they

climbed before supper, it being served on the side of the mountain. The weather was beautiful and the foliage was at the height of the autumn brilliance. The party was delighted with the varied scenes, opportunities for travel and recreation in this part of the country. After spending the night at Linville they continued their journey, which was to take them through the Mount Mitchell and Pisgah Districts.

--J. HERBERT STONE  
Forest Supervisor

#### OUACHITA

The Caddo River Lumber Company cut nearly 2 million board feet of pine during November. Appraisal and advertisement was made on 37,000 acres of white oak timber. The appraisal shows an average of 13 board feet per acre. Hank Bosworth says there'll be a lot of good bidding on this chance.

More than 100 acres of old fields adjacent to pine stands were scarified this month. The Road Ripper with three teeth seems to be the most satisfactory way of doing this job. However, the results obtained will be the best indication of most effective method.

Plans have been completed for checking all hunters on the Forest during deer season. The plan is to follow last year's lineup as closely as possible.

Work has been started on the game warden stations on Oak Mountain, Pigeon Creek and Muddy Creek refuges. The first job is to find a good supply of drinking water before any other work is started on the structures.

October was another month of few fires. We had seven Class A fires and eight Class B fires and no Class C's. The total number of fires for calendar year to date is 136; of these 84 were man caused, 52 lightning caused.

Road Work has moved along smoothly. Some experiments in road bank fixation are being carried on by Project Superintendent Bell on Walker Mountain road. Bermuda grass planted on about a mile of this road seems to have taken hold immediately and started growing. It looks like the thing for this Forest.

Recreational plans are being developed for the Forest. The inventory of all recreational sites is almost completed. Work is going ahead nicely on Ouachita, Charlton, Walnut, Saline, Bard Springs, Iron Springs and South Fourche Camp Grounds and dams. More than 5000 persons have registered at Bard Springs this season.

During the month we lost four CCC camps on the Forest. Camps closed are County Line, Hollis, Thornberg in Arkansas, and Holson Valley in Oklahoma.

The Office Force, Rangers and Project Superintendents with their wives, husbands, etc. got together for a dinner and dance at the Kingsway Hotel on the evening of October 26. "A good time was had." Many of the 76 persons attending have signified their desire to have these functions more often.

The float which the Ouachita entered at the Yell County Fair at Danville, Arkansas on October

was awarded a blue ribbon as being the best exhibit at the Fair. The float was built by Chief Foreman McGaughy, Captain McQueen at Plainview Camp, and Ranger Dale. This float was a very creditable piece of work and created quite a favorable impression with the entire populace. The Fair authorities requested that the float be left on exhibit for the duration of the Fair.

--A. L. NELSON  
Forest Supervisor.

#### SUMTER

The Long Cane Unit had the pleasure of a visit from Mr. Kircher during October, during which visit Mr. Kircher, on the night of October 15, attended the supper and meeting at Camp F-10. This meeting was also attended by Supervisor Sears and Executive Assistant Otto from Sumter Headquarters, and several other members of the office. Mr. Kircher, Mr. Sears and Colonel Dravo made talks, as well as other Forest Service personnel.

From what we can gather, this "get-together" was lots of fun and everybody had a good time.

Work will begin soon on the Wambaw Creek Bridge. This bridge will open to Camp F-9 a short cut to a large part of the Unit, which can now be reached only by a long round-about trip.

The Shelton Lookout Tower has been completed, and construction of the Long Lane tower begun.

On a recent visit to the Enoree, A. C. Shaw, Assistant Regional Forester, and Dr. Hursh of the Appalachian Experiment Station became interested in the establishment of an experimental forest near Whitmire. This would be for the purpose of conducting studies of run-off and erosion on both denuded and forested areas.

The Sumter Forest had a very interesting and educational exhibit at the State Fair during the week October 21-26. The baloptican, showing colored slides on the various phases of forestry, and the miniature camp, erected on a large table, created much interest. In fact, it was generally stated that the exhibit was so good it drew the attention of people who had never before been interested in forestry, and it gave these people, and others who have been in sympathy with this work all along, a better insight into, and understanding of, the work of the Forest Service throughout the country.

On October 29, a conference was held between officers of the Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service, at Newberry. At this conference, tentative plans were made to extend activities of the Soil Conservation Service to valuable farm lands within the purchase areas, which such lands are of paramount agricultural value and, hence, not desired by

the Forest Service for forestry purposes. A committee was appointed to study and classify such farms or areas and pass upon their adaptability to farm or forest purposes.

It is the aim of both Services to make the best use of every acre of land, to turn the submarginal areas into productive forests, and to keep the good land good.

relief rollers to make strides in the direction of promotions.

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Here's a little story we thought quite amusing and worth sharing. However, owing to the fact that we couldn't decide which was the better title - "Honesty is the Best Policy" or "Caught in the Act" - for this story, we have left it "untitled."

During Fire Prevention Week, on October 11 to be explicit, Ranger Garber made a lecture appropriate to the occasion and accompanied it with lantern slides. On the same date, a little colored boy - whose name we won't divulge - stole a chicken from a local resident, secured some rice and cinnamon buns, roasted the chicken in the woods and sat down to a grand feast. Well, that old saying about your sin "finding you out" surely proved true in this case, and all because this little boy was careless. He neglected to extinguish his camp fire, with the result that the fire got away from him and burned a half-acre of land. The Camp 4 crew suppressed fire, after which action the boy was arrested and taken into camp, where he was questioned. He insistently denied any knowledge of the fire. However, he wasn't fooling anybody but himself. Before taking him to the Magistrate, Mr. Garber allowed him to see the lantern slides, and he made frequent reference to "roasting chicken" during the showing of the slides. After seeing the slides, the little boy confessed his guilt and was sentenced to, and lodged in, the Charleston County jail that night.

The Columbia Chamber of Commerce officially welcomed the Seed Loan Office to Columbia with a banquet which was held in the Crystal Room of the Columbia Hotel on the evening of October 8th.

Among the speakers were Hon. J. P. Fulmer, Member of Congress, and an outstanding exponent of the cause of agriculture; former Congressman Lever; Mayor Owens and former Congressman Larson who heads up the Seed Loan Organization in Columbia. Executive Assistant George Otto represented the Sumter, pinch-hitting for Supervisor Sears, who was out of the city.

Acreage optioned on the Croatan has reached a total of 100,000 acres.

Here's an instance where a relief roller "makes good." F. M. Simmons, who was a relief roller on examination work on the Croatan, has been promoted to grade of Forest Guard and will act as Central Dispatcher at Newport.

This should encourage other

Everybody's wondering which

impressed him the most - Mr. Garber's frequent and evidently terrifying reference to "roasting chicken," or the showing of the slides.

--H. M. SEARS  
Forest Supervisor

#### FLORIDA NATIONAL FORESTS

Application was received at the Choctawhatchee office recently from representatives of the War Department for permission to clear on National Forest an area adjoining the Valparaiso Airport, 1000' x 2000' on which an extended runway would be built.

The present airport has been in the process of construction for about one year, starting as an F. E.R.A. Project; labor being furnished by a transient camp located on the forest.

At present the airport has two paved runways 200' x 2500' in length.

This site and the surrounding land was donated to the Government by a private individual, and the work started by representatives of the 84th Service Squadron, Maxwell Field, Alabama; the field to be used principally by men from there as a fall and winter bombing and gunnery base school.

More recently the possibilities existing at the field have come to the attention of others, and the necessity has arisen for enlarging the field to permit the landing of all types of aircraft.

The field will now be used by officers and men from the Second and Third Wing of the Air Corps, i.e., men from Langley Field, Virginia, Barksdale Field, Louisiana, and Maxwell Field, Alabama.

Chapman Field, Miami, Florida has formerly been the fall and winter training field. Activities at that place will hereafter be transferred to the Valparaiso Airport, which will be larger and better.

The landing field will have two paved runways, north to south, and east to west, each 200' in width and 4000' in length.

The airport is so situated that loaded bombing planes can fly from the airport to the Choctawhatchee Bay without flying over private land.

Approximately twenty enlisted men from Maxwell Field will be stationed at the airport permanently, while at White Point, another place on the forest, quarters are being constructed on a special use area for approximately thirty-five officers who will remain here.

Timber for all of the construction is being furnished by the Forest Service. In addition to this, two miles of telephone line has been built by the Forest Service, connecting the airport with the Forest Service and other lines.

We hope that this will be of material benefit to us during the fire seasons to come, as this will present excellent possibility of combining aerial patrol with radio equipped planes on days of low visibility, all tied in with our present telephone system.

Anticipation on the forest is high, regards this cooperation. Perhaps this will mark the beginning of another era in fire protection and detection, and the passing of the foot and motor patrolman.

During the past years many inquiries have been received regards possibilities of obtaining Special Use Permits for summer homes and organization camps on the Choctawhatchee.

The Choctawhatchee and surrounding country presents many such possibilities with its miles and miles of water front on both the Gulf of Mexico and the Choctawhatchee Bay, not to mention its innumerable clear, cool streams.

Recently a party of five prominent Pensacola citizens representing the Girl Scout Organization of Pensacola and vicinity visited the forest, inspecting various camp site possibilities, and have now made application for an area on Little Bayou of fifty acres upon which they propose to construct a modern camp.

--H. A. SNYDER  
District Ranger.

#### THE SPIRIT OF THE TREES

When the vision flies out over the earth it would become weary if it had nothing to obstruct it; so God planted the trees out yonder that our wandering eyes may pause, like birds, and rest upon them.

--DELONG RICE.

#### HOME SWEET HOME ON WHEELS

If you want to get a slant on what Forest Service public camps of the future will look like read "Home Sweet Home on Wheels" in the November RE.DERS DIGEST.

With 250,000 automobile trailers already in use and the trailer manufacturers away behind on orders it is predicted that these homes on wheels will meet the American instinct to travel, and urge inherited from a background of covered wagons. California and Florida take the lead in trailer campers to date. Already several "trailer cities" with streets, lights and sewerage system have been laid for this type of residence.

--L.A.B. Region 5,  
California Ranger.

#### BR'E'R RABBIT UP TO NEW TRICKS

While on a recent visit to the Pisgah National Forest, I discovered a brand new source of forest fire hazard, at least it was one which I had never heard of before, the cause of the particular fire in question being indicated as "smoking rabbit."

The fire report did not indicate whether the rabbit in question was addicted to pipe, cigar or cigarette, but at any rate it is presumed that the well known "rabbit tobacco" or the good old mountain custom of smoking a rabbit out of a log was the cause of it all.

--J. R. SMITH, JR.  
Accounts Division.

UNOFFICIAL OBSERVATIONS OF AN OFFICIAL OBSERVER

NOTED ON THE NANTAHALA

--Cars with U. S. D. A. licenses scattered promiscuously along the road between Clayton and Franklin.

--Wonderful view of "the mountains that make the Nantahala" from the decrepit tower on Wayah Bald.

--Fried chicken twice a day every day at the Scott Griffin Hotel.

--A breath taking view of the Cashier Valley from a bend in the road on U.S. 64.

--Mrs. Supervisor Bryan hospitably hiding behind a steaming stack of home-made waffles flanked by a pitcher of genuine Vermont maple syrup.

--"Pop" Dunlap on the far side of the table hungrily hankering for one (or more) of those same delicious waffles.

--An inspector from the R.O. happily helping to demolish that same stack of delectable delights.

--An awe-inspiring panorama of thousand of acres of South Carolina Piedmont from a bend in the turnpike road.

--Ranger Nicholson cunningly coaxing confessions from conservation corps kids who ~~cause~~ conflagrations purloining petrol from government tractors.

--Two gaps (only two) in the Nantahala mountains with no Forest Service roads running through them.

-- G. W. R.

BEWARE

Old Satan smiled a devilish smile, and waved his forked tail,  
As he viewed the new arrival in his somewhat torrid vale;  
He rubbed his sharp-clawed hands in glee; he breathed dense clouds of smoke  
His eyes glowed like two red-hot coals, and thus grim Satan spoke:  
"Oh, ho! My merry fireman all! Come quickly, see who's here!  
The chap we've waited for since August of last year;  
We've saved for him the hottest place, the tall asbestos trees;  
Go stoke the fires, and heat 'er to six-hundred ten degrees.  
And throw him in and chain him - don't let the fires get low -  
And turn the big blast furnace loose where he can feel it blow.  
He'll get what he gave others: Real hell, beyond a doubt!  
For he's the man who didn't put his own camp fire out."

- California Ranger,

T H E      L O O K O U T

Regional Forester Kircher, Mr. Kramer, and Mr. Evans attended the Southeastern Planning Conference held at Savannah December 4 and 5 under the auspices of the National Resources Board. Mr. Kircher addressed the conference on the Southern Region's forestry program.

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Robert Fechner, Director of Emergency Conservation Work, visited the Regional Office when he stopped in Atlanta recently on his way to dedicate the Santo Domingo State Park, a gift to the people of Georgia from Cator Woolford, Atlanta capitalist.

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L. L. Evans of Secretary Wallace's office, spent several days in the Regional Office during November.

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Associate Regional Forester Stabler visited the Ouachita National Forest in November.

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The Sumter regrets the loss of one of its best-loved employees, by the resignation of Mr. Rene Ravenal. His friends wish him lots of luck with his new position, which is with Charleston County.

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Miss Lillian King, Division of States Relations, has just

returned from a vacation of three weeks which she spent at her home in Asheville.

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W. I. Stevens of the Division of Lands is on a trip to Tallahassee, Florida.

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R. J. Riebold, Division of Operation, is engaged in special work on the Ozark and Ouachita.

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Waldo Smith, one of the promising young Junior Foresters on the Wabash, joined the ranks of the married personnel in October.

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E. J. Schlatter, Division of Lands, has returned from a recent trip to Mississippi and Texas.

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J. R. Smith and Harry Barkin, Accounts Division, are on the Cherokee.

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Mills E. Gay, Division of Engineering, and Miss Ann L. McKern of Atlanta, were married on Thanksgiving Day at the Druid Hills Baptist Church.

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E. F. Mynatt, Regional Law Officer, has returned from two weeks in Arkansas and Oklahoma.

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The deepest sympathy of her many friends in the Regional Office is extended to Mrs. Mary D. Andrews whose husband died suddenly on November 13.

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Mr. Bell reports that we went over the top again for the Community Chest Drive in the Regional Office this year and were able to give Mr. Kircher a 100 percent Subscription Certificate, just as we did last year. Both Mr. Kircher and Mr. Bell greatly appreciate this splendid response on the part of the Regional Office personnel.

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Stealing gas from a tractor on the Nantahala brought about the arrest of Wyatt Clements and Jerry Moore. Both men pleaded guilty when arraigned and were sentenced to seven months and three months, respectively, on the Oconee County chain gang.

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On November 11 Donald R. Brewster of the Division of Timber Management was a guest at the weekly staff meeting of the Southern Forest Experiment Station in New Orleans.

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At the request of Director

Demon, Mr. Brewster told the staff something of the work which the Region is starting in co-operation with the larger private owners in the development of better forest management on private timberlands. He also described the cooperative mill-scale study being made by the Region and the Forest Products Laboratory of the shortleaf pine roofer production by portable mills on the Long Cane Unit of the Sumter Forest in the Lower Piedmont section of South Carolina.

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#### THE BOYS GIVE THE GIRLS A HAND!

This is the story of a girl and tractor grease.

The girl is a busy miss in the Regional Office who makes administrative audit of ECW vouchers. The grease is DA Lubricant. Large amounts of a special grade were being purchased for use in Camp XY-Z-1. In fact the amounts were so large that the young lady auditor, in a businesslike memorandum, asked the inspector why. She hadn't noticed such items for other camps.

The investigation showed that DA of the wrong grade was being used in the crankcase of a Cletrac 55, and that continued use would have resulted in serious damage. Said the inspector in his report: "This camp has a paid mechanic but we have to depend on a girl in headquarters to catch these things. Perhaps we had best make some girls supervising mechanics."